(b) whether it is a fact that the country carrier has entered into a bilateral agreement with the Saudi national carrier to carry Haj pilgrims;

(c) if so, the details of the passengers travelled by national carrier and Saudi carrier during the last three years; and

(d) the details of revenue sharing agreement between Indian and Saudi national carriers considering that Government provides subsidy for air travel to Hajis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation enters into an MOU with Saudi Arabian Airlines to carry Haj pilgrims from different embarkation points. The number of pilgrims carried by Air India and Saudi Arabian Airlines during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Air India	Saudi Arabian Airlines
Haj 2008	64,247	57,448
Haj 2007	51,083	58,917
Haj 2006-II	49,327	59,191

(d) There is no such agreement.

Agitations against merger in Air India

2015. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the objectives of the merger of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI);

(b) whether those objectives have been met;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether recurrent agitations in Air India are one of the constraints in realizing the objectives of the merger; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to discount such agitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The integration of the two airlines was done with the objectives of developing seamless connectivity, network of regional operations, short to medium haul trunk operations and long haul operations resulting in an improved product offering through wider network coverage. The merger would also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for leveraging common assets.

(b) Fulfilment of the objectives of the merger is an on-going process.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.